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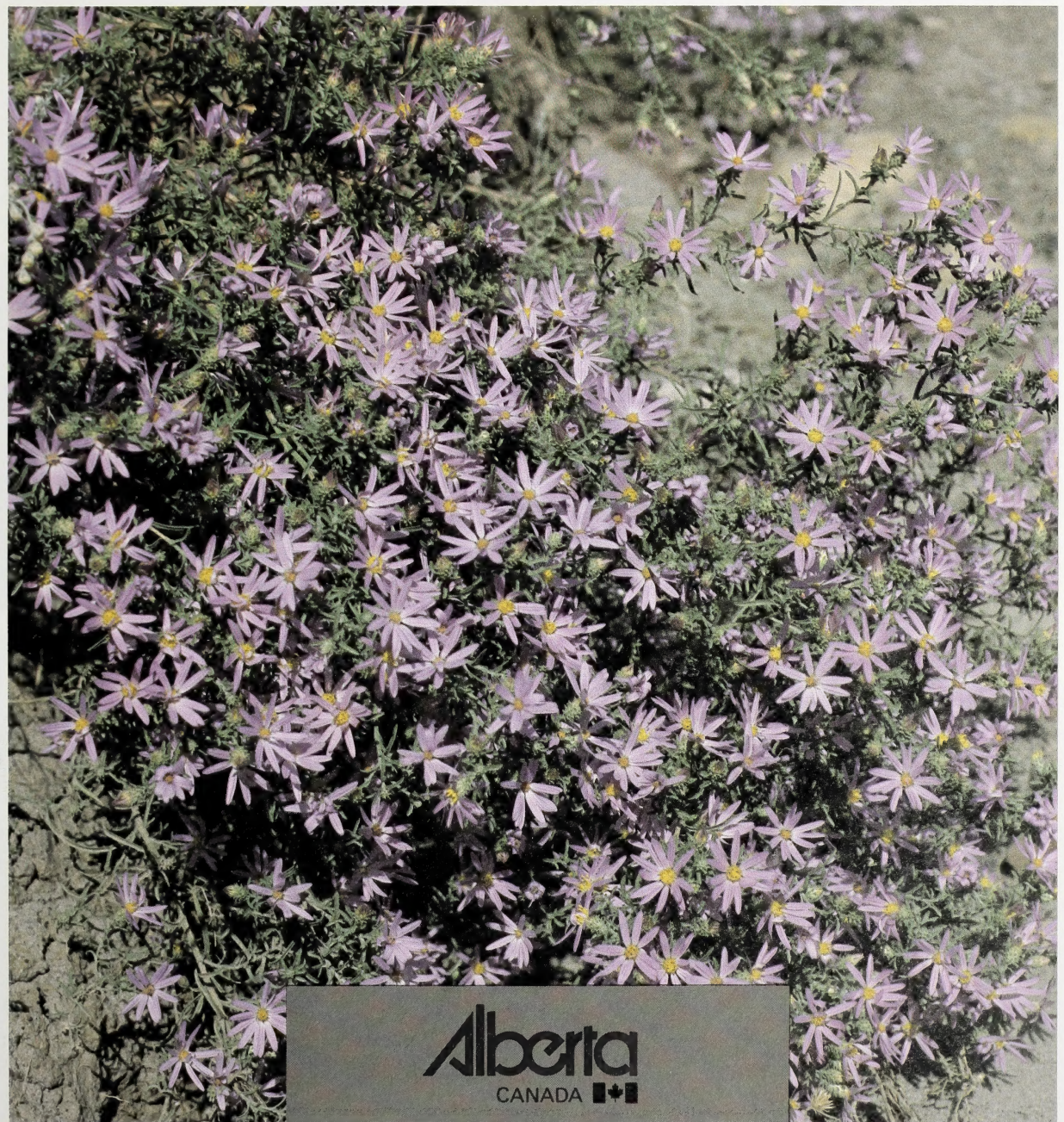
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ALBERTA

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Alberta
CANADA 

MULTI-CULTURAL ALBERTA

In its short history, the province of Alberta has changed dramatically, transformed from a frontier territory into an agrarian society and evolving to become a modern and dynamic part of western Canada.

People from a wide variety of backgrounds, including nomadic tribes, fur traders, farmers, tradesmen, merchants and professionals, contributed their unique skills and cultures to build Alberta. The photographic collage in this edition of **ALBERTA NEWS** provides a glimpse into the influences of immigration on Alberta's development. Contributions have been made in government and law, agriculture, business, and industry. Throughout the province, the celebration of Alberta's heritage is evident in museums, the arts, recreational alternatives, and in colourful traditional costumes at heritage festivals.

Today the province's 2.4 million population comprises a society which encourages the retention of ethnic origins. In spite of the inherent diversity, residents of Alberta enjoy a high degree of cohesion, stability and cultural harmony.

MAJOR ETHNIC ORIGINS OF ALBERTANS*

British	51.2%
German	7.8%
French	5.3%
Ukrainian	4.6%
Dutch	2.4%
Aboriginal Peoples (North American Indians, Metis and Inuit)	2.2%
Chinese	2.1%
Scandinavian	2.1%
South Asian (Indo-Pakistani)	1.3%
Polish	1.2%
All Others	19.9%

* 1986 Canada Census

ALBERTA NEWS is published quarterly to provide information to our clients and colleagues. This edition will highlight the province's multi-cultural population.

If you have any comments or suggestions for content in future editions, or if you would like additional copies of this publication, please contact:

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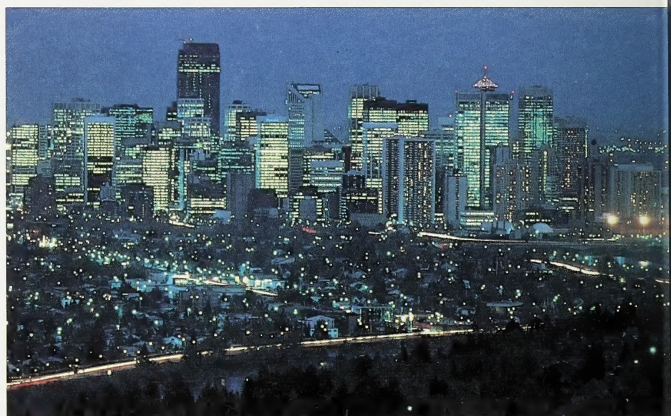
Alberta
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
AND EMPLOYMENT
Immigration and Settlement

THE HISTORY

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Before Europeans discovered Canada, Alberta was already inhabited by North American Plains Indians. It is believed that their ancestors crossed the Bering Strait from Asia in prehistoric times. From carbon-dated remains and artifacts it is known that they reached North America at least 20,000 years ago.

The unique experience of these nomadic tribes, including their search for food and shelter and the development of their culture, was based on a close relationship to the land. Themes reflecting this relationship are seen in the songs, dances and ceremonial costumes which have been retained.



OF IMMIGRANT GROUPS IN ALBERTA

BRITISH

In their fur trading capacity, Scottish pioneers were among the first to settle in Fort Edmonton and, in 1873, played a major part in forming the North West Mounted Police to bring law and order to the West.

During the latter part of the 19th century, the Canadian government adopted a policy for the settlement of the prairie

provinces. Many British pioneers were drawn to western Canada, attracted by the abundance of free or inexpensive land. Early English and Welsh settlers founded farming settlements in central and southern Alberta.

Substantial Irish emigration from eastern Canada to the prairie provinces did not begin until the 1880's. Many Irish immigrants worked as labourers on farms or on railway construction.

The British contributions, both historically and culturally, to the development of Canada and Alberta have been substantial. Among the most significant are the English and Welsh judicial and legal systems, and the Parliamentary form of government.

GERMAN

With the opening for settlement of western

Canada from the 1870's onwards, German immigration was encouraged by the Canadian government because of their reputation for being successful agriculturalists. The appeal of the prairies to these settlers was in large part due to the government's willingness to set aside large areas of land where they could establish a community and retain

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Immigrant Groups *continued*

their language, religion and control over their own schools.

After the Second World War, Alberta received many of the new German immigrants who came to Canada, many of whom had high levels of education and technical expertise. They tended to settle in the urban centres of Edmonton and Calgary, many founding businesses or contributing in the advancement of scientific research.

FRENCH

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Although Jacques Cartier had arrived at Jasper and claimed the newly discovered land for France in 1534, French settlement of Canada did not begin until 1608 when Samuel de Champlain founded the city of Quebec.

French-Canadian voyageurs and fur traders travelled to the West in the mid-eighteenth century, but it was not until the arrival from Quebec of French-speaking missionaries at Fort Edmonton in 1842 that the first settlement was formed. Between 1842 and

1885, the majority of Edmontonians were of French descent.

French language religious orders, specifically the Grey Nuns and the Sisters of Charity, founded the Misericordia and Holy Cross Hospitals in Edmonton and Calgary. Contributions by people of French descent in the area of the performing arts also enhanced the cultural heritage of the province.

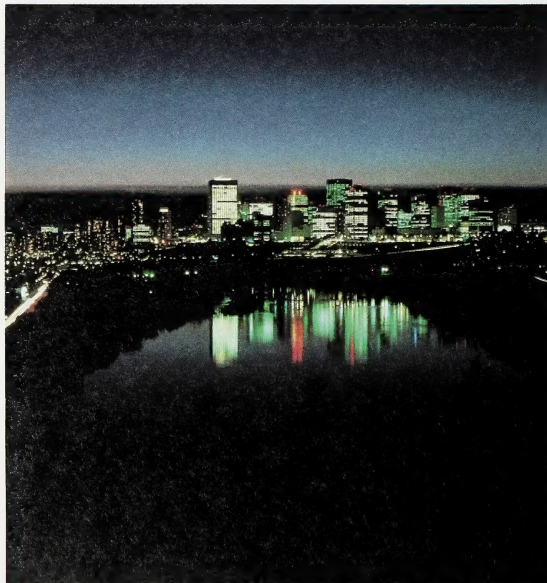
UKRAINIANS

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The first Ukrainian settlers to arrive in Canada lived briefly in Manitoba before

re-settling east of Edmonton in 1891. Their favorable reports about western Canada, its freedom from oppression and the cheap cost of its homesteads, led to the arrival of many more settlers from the Ukraine. The similarity of the Alberta soil, climate and agricultural economy allowed for a relatively easy adaptation to their new home.

Subsequent Ukrainian immigrants tended to locate in urban areas and included increasing numbers of professionals, as well as political emigres after the Second World War.



There is a strong desire within their social group to retain language, traditions, arts and literature. The rich folklore of Ukrainian dances, theatrical plays, colourful costumes and various handicrafts continue to be maintained.

DUTCH

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The first Dutch settlements in Alberta were formed between 1904-12 by members of the Reformed Church in the southern region of the province. The Neerlandia colony 90 miles north of Edmonton was created in 1912 in an attempt to found a

community where Dutch culture and religion could flourish. Other Dutch farmers established their homesteads in nearly all parts of the province, playing a significant role in the agricultural sector.

Although Dutch immigrants have generally assimilated into mainstream Canadian society, the Dutch community has steadfastly maintained its cultural and Calvinist religious traditions.

CHINESE

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The first persons of Chinese origin to arrive in

Alberta were railroad workers who, after the completion of the railway in 1885, remained in the province to operate laundries, restaurants and market vegetable gardens.

With the termination of immigration restrictions in 1947, the Chinese population in Alberta increased sharply with most settling in and around Calgary, Lethbridge and Edmonton.

The extent of the Chinese integration into Canadian society and their contribution to it can be gauged by the success of many Chinese-Canadians in business and the

professions, and by the general acceptance of various features of Chinese culture such as their cuisine and New Years' celebrations.

SCANDINAVIANS

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According to the 1986 Census on Ethnic Origins of Canadians, persons who trace their descent from either Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland or Norway make up the eighth largest ethnic group in Alberta.

The first Norwegian pioneers arrived in Alberta

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Immigrant Groups *continued*

in 1880. Today, Norwegians make up approximately 50 percent of the total Scandinavian population of the province. Most reside in Edmonton, Calgary and Camrose.

Danish settlement in Alberta occurred at the beginning of this century with a largely agrarian community who came from eastern Canada and the central United States. Most Danish-Canadians in the province now reside in Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer.

The first Finnish immigrants to arrive in Alberta were farmers from the northern United States. Homesteads were created at Sylvan Lake, Radway and Eckville in 1902. More recent immigrants included professionals and skilled workers who preferred to locate in Edmonton and Calgary.

Swedish migration to Alberta began in 1892 when homesteads were created near Wetaskiwin by Swedish farmers from the United States. In 1910, settlements were formed in Red Deer, Medicine Hat and Strathcona (Edmonton) by immigrants who came directly from Sweden.

The first Icelandic settlement was created at Markerville, near Innisfail, in 1888. Before the turn of the century, community schools and churches were built. The pattern of Icelandic settlement in Alberta is unique in that it occurred in one principal phase from 1873 to 1900.

Each of the Scandinavian groups see the preservation of their heritage as being of considerable importance. Various cultural organizations and publications help to retain language, history and traditional arts.

SOUTH ASIANS

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South Asian immigrants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Fiji, East Africa, Nepal and Bhutan have arrived in Alberta in significant numbers during the past 25 years.

Although a few South Asian settlers began farming near Lethbridge and Medicine Hat shortly after the First World War, it was not until the 1950's that many school teachers arrived and settled in rural areas and small towns. During the 1960's new immigrants consisted mainly of professionals



such as accountants and doctors.

South Asians have formed various organizations to maintain their cultural heritage. They have also been very active in soccer, cricket and badminton, often forming their own clubs, and provincial and inter-provincial leagues.

POLISH

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The first major influx of Poles into Alberta occurred between 1895 and 1918 and came as a result of the Canadian government's desire to settle the prairie provinces. Of those who

came to Canada during this period, the majority settled in Alberta. Most of these early immigrants were farmers and labourers. Mining and railway construction work also provided employment, attracting them to such places as Coleman, Canmore, Exshaw and Taber, as well as Calgary and Edmonton.

After the devastation caused by the Second World War, a new wave of Polish immigration began. These new immigrants differed from their predecessors in that many were well-educated, highly-skilled workers.

Today, most Albertans of Polish descent live in or near Edmonton and Calgary. Many non-secular organizations, provincially

and nationally, are committed to the preservation of the Polish cultural identity.



SUMMARY OF BUSINESS IMMIGRATION PROGRAM CATEGORIES

	INVESTOR	ENTREPRENEUR	SELF-EMPLOYED
Category Intended For:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> successful business persons who wish to invest in an enterprise but who do not wish to participate in its management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> successful business persons experienced in the management of small- to medium-sized enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> successful individuals with skills and experience in self-employment, such as farmers, artisans and sports personalities
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> successful business background through the operation, control or direction of a financially successful business or commercial undertaking personal net worth of \$500,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> proven track record as a successful business person intention and ability to establish a business in Alberta which will create employment for Canadian residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> proven track record in area of expertise intention and ability to establish a business in Alberta employing self
Requirements			
i) investment and benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> irrevocable investment of \$250,000 for at least three years in a business or private investment syndicate which has been designated by Alberta as meeting the criteria of the Business Immigration Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sufficient capital to establish and sustain an "active" business in Alberta which will manufacture products, provide services, or sell merchandise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish a business in Alberta which will contribute positively to the economic, cultural or artistic life of the community
ii) employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> investment must result in creation or continuation of employment opportunities for Canadian residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> business must result in creation or maintenance of employment opportunities for one or more Canadian residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> employs only the applicant
iii) management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no active management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must manage business on an active basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must manage business on an active basis
iv) other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must meet requirements of the Immigration Act and Regulations must possess sufficient additional funds to maintain self and family in Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must meet requirements of the Immigration Act and Regulations must possess sufficient additional funds to maintain self and family in Alberta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must meet requirements of the Immigration Act and Regulations must possess sufficient additional funds to maintain self and family in Alberta

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION

The Business Immigration Program enables individuals with successful business experience to choose Alberta as the location for their business and residence.

Prospective business immigrants are invited to visit Alberta to assess the viability of their proposed business venture and to see for themselves the many advantages which Alberta offers. With advance notice of such a visit, we will be pleased to meet with visitors and arrange an itinerary of meetings with appropriate business contacts.

Visitors to Edmonton and northern Alberta who wish to discuss the **Business Immigration Program** may contact:

Ms. Viviane Hanson
(Entrepreneur and Self-Employed Categories)

or

Mr. Pat Shanahan
(Investor Category)
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Visitors to Calgary and southern Alberta, including Red Deer, who would like to discuss the **Business Immigration Program** may contact:

Mr. Tony Pugh
Immigration and Settlement
Alberta Career Development and Employment
8th Floor
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Enquirers in Southeast Asia who wish to obtain information about Alberta and the **Business Immigration Program** may contact:

Mr. Jack C. Lee
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Central, Hong Kong
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Facsimile: 5-298115

In our next edition of **ALBERTA NEWS** we will feature innovative developments which are taking place in Alberta's high technology industry.

PLACES IN ALBERTA



ALBERTA IN THE WORLD

Distances between Alberta and major cities of the world (in kilometres)

